

A Look at Old Florida Courthouses • Capturing Fernandina's Past

FLORIDA HERITAGE

FALL 1993

Oases in the Sun Florida's Historic Gardens

**Standing
Ovation
for the
Sarasota
Opera House**

**Pensacola:
Once is
Not Enough**



Your Tour Guide to Notable Sites in Florida's Black History

FLORIDA BLACK HERITAGE TRAIL

The Florida Black Heritage Trail takes you on the road to 141 sites significant to the history of African American people in Florida. You'll read about influential Black leaders, educators and artists; visit African American festivals and events; and learn about four specially-designed thematic driving tours.

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MUSEUM OF FLORIDA HISTORY

500 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399
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FLORIDA HERITAGE

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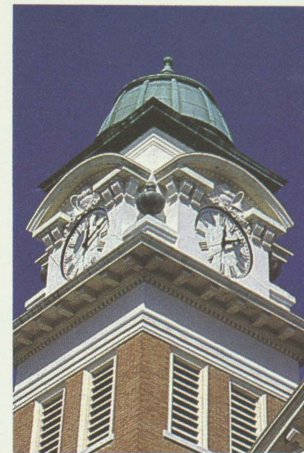
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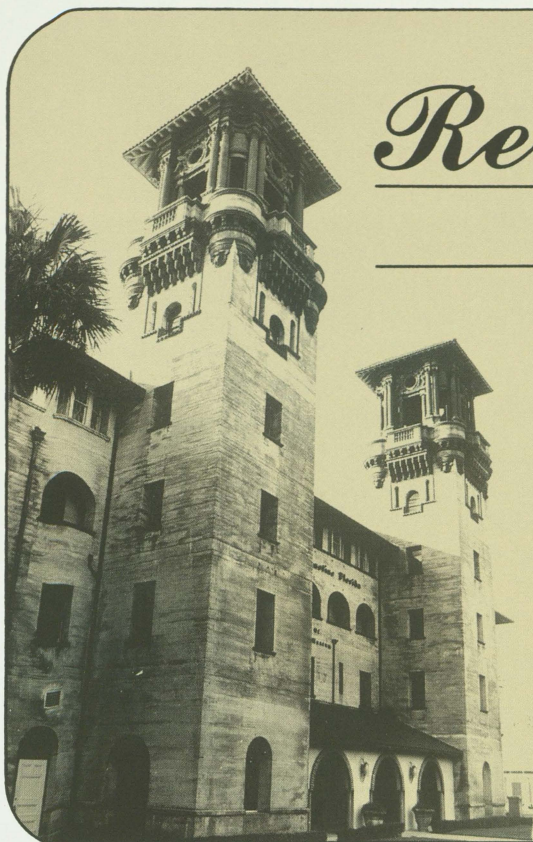


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ON THE COVER: Villa Vizcaya in Miami contains ten magnificent acres of formal gardens. Photo by R. G. Prophet, Florida Division of Tourism.



Relive the Legacy

of America's Gilded Age

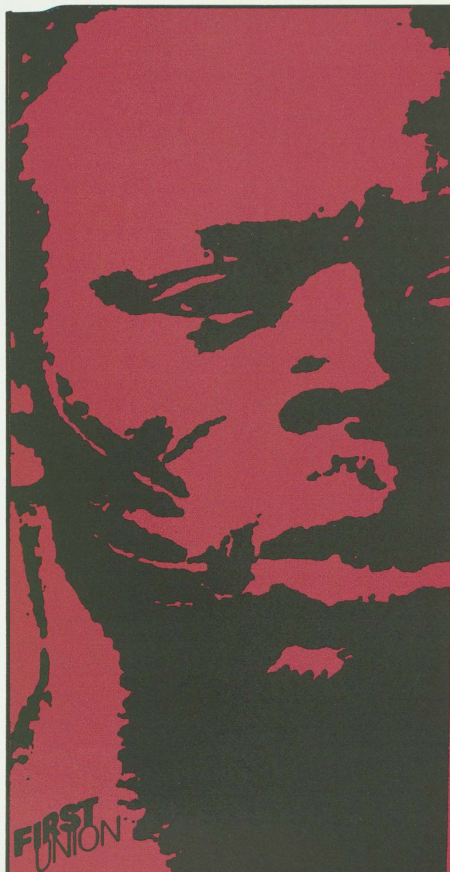
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FROM THE DIRECTOR

THE FLORIDA HERITAGE NETWORK

Welcome to our second issue of *Florida Heritage*, where you'll stroll through some of Florida's most beautiful gardens, tour three of Pensacola's historic districts, visit a museum housed in a former jail, take a look at a selection of old courthouses, and imagine yourself at a performance in Sarasota's beautifully restored opera house. Our aim is to get you as excited as we are about Florida's heritage. Florida's highways and backroads are beckoning—join us as we travel them.

Florida Heritage is part of a plan to involve greater numbers of people in the effort to protect our state's historical resources. We believe that an improved awareness of historical places, folk festivals and other heritage events will lead to a greater appreciation of the value of preserving our heritage and integrating its remaining treasures into modern life.

But *Florida Heritage* is only part of the plan. We are also taking steps to modernize the state marker program to make places of historical interest more recognizable and accessible. A new marker series will greatly expand the number of historical places identified, raising the level of visibility of these sites in communities throughout the state. Also, there will be a published guide to help direct the public to all the places marked.

Our goal is to develop a user-friendly network of places and events associated with our heritage—a Florida Heritage network—with various means of making Florida residents and visitors aware of all the interesting places in this network. We also have plans for a Florida Heritage publication series that will provide popular information for the general public about important historic buildings and archaeological sites, as well as ethnic and folk traditions. The Black Heritage Trail is the first of these and a prototype for several similar trails we will produce in the future.

We're also developing a heritage education program to show elementary and secondary school students the value of heritage to Florida's quality of life. We plan a series of Florida Heritage resource guides for teachers for the same sites covered by the Florida Heritage network.

Working with groups such as the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation and Florida History Associates, as well as the many dedicated preservationists around the state, our efforts become a true partnership between government and the private sector. *Florida Heritage* helps us celebrate the many successes of working together.



George W. Percy

George W. Percy
DIRECTOR

DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Items of interest from around the state.

MUSEUM OF FLORIDA HISTORY TO DISPLAY NATIVE AMERICAN ART COLLECTION

The Museum of Florida History in Tallahassee is pleased to announce the opening of "Life As Art—The Indian People of North America," beginning December 15 and running through mid-June. This beautiful display of Native American art will be exhibited courtesy of I. S. Keith and Sara Reeves who have spent many years gathering this collection.

The Reeves' used their combined professional talents as architect and designer to select artifacts that exhibit soothing patterns and vivid colors. Items in the collection represent Indian people from

around North America, and include exquisite examples of beadwork, an Alaskan (Aleut) Indian parka and regional Seminole artifacts.

The Museum is open to the public Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., and Sundays from noon until 4:30 p.m. (Closed on Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day). For further information, call (904) 488-1484. —PMP.



POMPANO WRECK PROPOSED AS UNDERWATER PRESERVE

THE FLORIDA DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES has proposed that the *Copenhagen*, a British steamship wrecked off Pompano Beach in 1900, be named Florida's fifth underwater archaeological preserve. The site was selected as a preserve candidate after nominations were solicited from more than 2,000 water-related organizations around the state.

Built in England in 1898, the *Copenhagen* was one of several single-screw steamships that were the pride of Glasgow's merchant fleet. Constructed with a double bottom to haul cargo across the Atlantic, the *Copenhagen* ran aground on a rocky ledge close to shore while carrying a load of coal from Philadelphia to Havana.

Already a popular diving spot, the *Copenhagen* teems with marine life, and features of the old steamship are easily recognizable underwater. Designation as a state preserve would make the site more accessible and better interpreted, with mooring systems, underwater maps and museum exhibits.

Florida's shipwreck preservation program provides a way for state, county and local officials, local organizations and individuals to work together to protect and interpret the state's maritime history. The four preserves already designated include the 1713 *Urca de Lima* off Fort Pierce; the 1733 *San Pedro* near Islamorada; the *City of Hawkinsville*, a sunken steamboat in the Suwannee River; and the *USS Massachusetts*, a World War I battleship in Pensacola Bay, which was dedicated in June. —RSE.

LEFT, BEVERLY BROSIUS; RIGHT, ROGER SMITH

STATE PURCHASES SIGNIFICANT MOUND SITE

THE STATE OF FLORIDA recently acquired land in Jefferson County that includes what may be the largest single temple mound and one of the oldest mound complexes in the state. The Letchworth Mound Site contains evidence of several cultures dating from the Archaic period (8,500 to 3,000 years ago) through the Fort Walton period (A.D. 1,000-1,400). The site consists of a large well-preserved temple mound about forty-three feet in height, an associated village area with plazas and a series of smaller burial or house mounds two to five feet in height.

According to archaeologist Calvin Jones, some of the mounds were likely built by people of the Deptford and Swift Creek cultures who lived between 500 B.C. and A.D. 500. Other mounds on the site may have been built during the Weeden Island time period (A.D. 500-1,000) and then re-used later by Fort Walton cultures.

"We're pretty sure that the area was long used by people of different cultures," Jones said. "But much archaeological research is needed to examine the mounds, habitation areas and plazas associated with the various time periods."

State archaeologists are intrigued by the great size and architectural complexity of the large mound, which is built in a complicated pattern of subsidiary platforms, terraces and a central ramp, unusual for mounds in Florida. The age of the site is believed to be especially early for temple mounds in the southeastern United States. From surface surveys and artifacts, it appears that the Letchworth site was occupied during the time

the earliest temple mounds were beginning to be constructed in the southeast. Jones said Letchworth is comparable to only a few sites in the southeast, including Kolomoki Mounds State Park in southwest Georgia, a complex that ceremonially tied together Indians over vast distances. Letchworth is not open to the public, but efforts are underway to make it accessible.—RSE.

STADIUM STILL LIVES

An exhibit of sixty photographs documents major and minor league baseball parks from around the country at the T. T. Wentworth, Jr. State Museum in Pensacola. Photographer Jim Dow has traveled to over fifty communities in at least twenty-five states to capture the quiet expectation of empty ballparks for this Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) collection of images. "Major League, Minor League: America's Baseball Stadiums" will be open to the public through October 31.



Dow is also responsible for another SITES photographic exhibit titled "Diamonds Are Forever." His work is displayed in the Museum of Modern Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and other galleries and museums around the country. For more

information about this exhibition, call Tom Muir at the Historic Pensacola Preservation Board, (904) 444-8905.—PMP.

FRANCES BOURQUE RECEIVES FLORIDA TRUST AWARD

Veteran Florida preservationist Frances Bourque received the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation's Award for Outstanding Individual Achievement and Distinguished Service at the Trust's annual meeting in May. Although the award came as a complete surprise to Bourque, it was hardly unwarranted.

Bourque has been involved in historic preservation in Florida since 1986, and since then she has worked tirelessly to further its cause. Her greatest accomplishment to date has been the renovation of the Old School Square in Delray Beach as a cultural arts center. Since assuming the chair of its Board of Directors in 1988, she has overseen completion of the 1913 Cornell Museum, the 1925 gymnasium and, most recently, the renovation of the high school's 1925 auditorium as the Crest Theater. Bourque has also



served as a member of numerous preservation organizations, including the Florida Historic Preservation Advisory Council, trustee and membership chairman of the Florida Trust and board member of Preservation Action.

Bourque notes the award is "an affirmation from your peers that you're doing a good job. But as important as it is, it's really secondary to what you've done." The award came as an extra to the City of Delray Beach, which recently was named an "All-American" City by the National Civic League. This award was in part made possible due to the success of the Old School

Square project and its impact on the community. Congratulations to Frances Bourque and the citizens of Delray Beach! —M.Z.



MOTORING DOWN TO BONNET HOUSE

Imagine a weekend filled with entertainment and a collection of over 100 classic automobiles on the grounds of a historic ocean-front estate in Fort Lau-

derdale and you have this year's installment of the annual Bonnet House Invitational Concours. Now in its fourth year, this celebration of motorized memorabilia will be held November 19-21. The fundraiser for the Florida Trust's Bonnet House will give automobile aficionados the chance to view vehicles representing every era of automotive history. But automobiles are only

part of the weekend event. On Friday evening the festival opens with an "island theme" dinner party and silent auction. The fun continues on Saturday with food, music and comedy, including an evening concert by jazz great Chuck Mangione. On Sunday, 125 classic automobiles ranging from a 1912 Baurues Strearuss-Knight to a 1959 Rolls Royce Silver Cloud I Sedan will be

displayed on the estate. An added extra this year will be several motorized entries from the movies, including James Bond's famous "Goldfinger" car. Last year an estimated 1,800 persons attended Sunday's invitational alone, the weekend raising \$76,000 for Bonnet House. For information on this year's Concours, contact Lois Edwards at (305) 779-7725.—**M.Z.**

FLORIDA PROJECTS WIN AASLH AWARDS

EIGHT PROJECTS BASED IN FLORIDA received national awards from the American Association of State and Local History at the group's annual meeting in Columbus, Ohio in September. The AASLH program recognizes historical societies, preservation organizations, history museums, businesses and individuals for contributions and excellence in state, regional and local history.

Dr. Samuel Proctor, professor of history at the University of Florida and known to many as "Mr. Florida History," received an

"Award of Merit" for a lifetime commitment to Florida history. "Certificates of Commendation" were awarded to the Boca Raton Historical Society for the exhibit "Women in Boca Raton: Fifty Years of History;" Dr. Michael Gannon for his book *Florida, A Short History*; Dr. Robert Snyder and Dr. Jack Moore for their book *Pioneer Commercial Photography: The Burgert Brothers, Tampa, Florida*; Tailored Tours Publications, Inc. for the three books *An Uncommon Guide to Florida*; *America's First City*; and *Henry Flagler: Builder of Florida*; and the Florida Historical Society for *Journeys for the Junior Historian*, a magazine for young students.—**PMP.**

JANUARY FESTIVAL CELEBRATES BLACK LITERARY FIGURE

THE FIFTH ANNUAL ZORA NEALE HURSTON FESTIVAL of the Arts and Humanities will take place January 24–30 in Eatonville. Festival '94 will bring scholars and Hurston enthusiasts from Africa, the Americas, Asia, Australia and Europe to Eatonville for a weeklong celebration of Hurston's literary career.

Born in Eatonville, Hurston was a major contributor to the Harlem Renaissance and a chronicler of Florida's culture. Eatonville is the country's oldest black municipality, incorporated in 1887.

The 1994 festival will complete a five-year cycle of events that examined Hurston's life, work and the community culture she wrote about, according to N.Y. Nathiri, executive director of the festival. She said the festival contains three components: a public forum, cultural arts events, and a three-day street festival. Evening cultural events will include an off-Broadway play, "Zora Neale Hurston," a production of Hurston's "From Sun to Sun - A Day in a Railroad Camp," a gospel workshop and concert, and a dialogue featuring Maya Angelou and Dr. Eleanor Traylor.

The street festival will include food, arts and crafts, continuous stage acts, folkways demonstrations, and African, Haitian and Jamaican village areas. Actors Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis will participate in storytelling activities.

For information concerning attendance, participation or sponsorship, call (407) 647-3307.—RSE.

DISCOVER JAPAN IN FLORIDA

The Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens in Delray Beach, the only museum in the U. S. devoted exclusively to the living culture of Japan, unveils a new permanent exhibit this fall season titled "The Yamato Colony: Pioneering Japanese in Florida." This collection of photographs, documents and artifacts covers the four-decade history of George Morikami's agricultural settlement that began in 1905.

Although the Morikami is nearing its first-year anniversary since occupying its new facility, this permanent exhibit will actually be housed in the adjacent, original museum building. The 540-square foot exhibition room will feature the simple, everyday lifestyle of these agrarian colonists. The exhibit portrays the surrounding community's attitudes toward the Japanese, the colony's important second generation and non-Japanese who lived in the community.

More than 100,000 visitors annually enjoy the tranquility of the gardens and the Japanese culture as displayed at the Morikami. For more information, call (407) 495-0233.—PMP.



LIEBMAN NAMED ADVISOR TO NATIONAL TRUST

Anyone involved with historic preservation in Dade County knows Nancy Liebman. For the past thirteen years, Liebman has fought for the preservation of Miami Beach's celebrated Art Deco district and other historic sites throughout Dade County. Several of her numerous preservation credits include former executive director of the Miami Design Preservation League, chair of the Miami Beach Historic Preservation Board and Dade Heritage Trust Trustee. She is presently running for a seat on the Miami Beach City Commission.

Now Liebman has added another credit to her preservation resume—advisor to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. She replaces Dade County histo-



rian Arva Moore Parks who had served as Trust advisor for the past nine years. Liebman views her new appointment as the chance to bring her experience in historic preservation in Florida to the national level. She joins Janet Matthews of Sarasota as one of two Florida advisors to the National Trust.—M.Z.



SYNAGOGUE TO HOUSE JEWISH MUSEUM OF FLORIDA

THE DOMED MOORISH AND ART DECO Beth Jacob Synagogue is a landmark building in Miami Beach. Some 76 stained glass windows, vaulted ceilings and Art Deco chandeliers adorn the 1936 building designed by prominent local architect Henry Hohaus. But Beth Jacob Synagogue is more than just a building—it is the spiritual and cultural center of Miami Beach's Jewish community. One of South Florida's most historic synagogues, Beth Jacob served the needs of its congregation for over 50 years until changing membership and increased maintenance costs forced its closure in 1988.

Now, with the assistance of MOSAIC, Inc., an organization founded in 1985 dedicated to increasing an awareness of the Jewish experience in Florida, the building will be restored to serve as the first museum of Jewish history in Florida. The museum will explore the richness and diversity of Jewish life through archives, crafts, lec-

tures, traveling exhibits and outreach educational programs. Sandra Angel Malamud, president of MOSAIC, said the museum will allow visitors to learn "how Jews are part of the microcosm of the multi-cultural experience of Florida and America and will also allow Jews to discover and celebrate our commonality rather than our differences with American culture."

An estimated one million dollars is needed to restore the building and establish the museum which is scheduled to open in December 1994. The building's restoration will be assisted by an \$80,000 grant which MOSAIC recently received from the Florida Department of State. The organization is also working on a campaign to raise an additional \$2.5 million to establish an endowment for the museum's operation. For information about MOSAIC and the Jewish Museum of Florida, call (305) 672-5044.—**M.Z.**



FROLIC IN THE NEW YEAR AT WHITE SPRINGS DANCE FEST

Love to dance? Tired of the same old New Year's Eve parties? Try something completely different this year at the Florida Frolic in White Springs. Starting with a New Year's Eve party on December 31 and ending with a farewell dance on January 2, you can wear yourself out dancing contras, squares, Cajun, waltzes and Norteño. When you're not hoofing, you can attend workshops on traditional Appalachian singing, old-time fiddling, Cajun fiddle and accordion, banjo, guitar, hammer dulcimer and clogging. Some of the Florida artists who will conduct workshops include Willie James of St. Petersburg, blues piano; Papa Joe Arbie, Live Oak, Cajun accordion; Tomas Granado, Homestead, Norteño accordion; Willie Jones,

Old Town, old-time fiddle; Swing Fever, Gainesville, dance instructors; Peter Martin, Micanopy, hammer dulcimer, as well as nationally recognized instructors from other states.

Vegetarian and non-vegetarian food will be cooked on-site. The park's campground with its complete bath and shower facilities will be open, or you can stay at a nearby motel. Cost for the program is \$120 for adults and \$60 for children ages 4-12, which includes all workshops, seven meals and camping.

The Florida Frolic is sponsored by the Department of State, Bureau of Florida Folklife Programs. For more information, call the Bureau at (904) 397-2192, or write Bob Stone, Florida Folklife Programs, P.O. Box 265, White Springs, FL 32906.—**RSE.**

LETTERS

The first issue of *Florida Heritage* is a triumph! An appropriate, well thought out combination of information, stimulation and quality—an excellent way for the Florida preservation community to represent itself to the public.

ROBIN GIBSON
Lake Wales

Congratulations on the first issue. It looks great.

PAGE EDWARDS, JR.
St. Augustine Historical Society

I read the first issue cover to cover, enjoying the articles as well as the photographs and beautiful layout. I was particularly impressed with the "To Learn More" boxes associated with each story. Congratulations!

LINDA W. MANSPERGER
Historic Spanish Point, Osprey

It is refreshing to see heritage information presented in such an upscale publication. For too long historical sites and information

has been relegated to rather dingy and dark formats. Incidentally, I noted that the back cover contained a picture of our courthouse in DeFuniak. That memorial nearly started a local war and required intervention of the Supreme Court to determine its location.

F. DIANE PICKET
DeFuniak Springs

It was a pleasure to read your first edition of *Florida Heritage* magazine. The magazine is colorful, interesting and informative, and should be very appealing to the general public. I found your article on the "Atmospheric Theaters" fascinating. I was not aware that we had such a beautifully restored theater so close to Sarasota. Your article on Florida's prehistoric monuments was also quite interesting.

ROBERT M. TOWN, AIA
Sarasota

Florida Heritage is a first class publication with outstanding design, articles and photography. The magazine will play a major

role in educating residents and visitors to the rich heritage and architecture of this state.

KEVIN MCGORTY
Historic Tallahassee Preservation Board

Bravo on your first issue! I love the look and the content of the magazine. While all that color is really dazzling, the articles are informative and enlightening as well.

LINDA DEATON
*Tallahassee Museum of History
& Natural Science*

I just finished reading my first issue of this great magazine. *Florida Heritage* will become a must for all my preservation-minded friends.

SHIELA A. KLEIN
*Community Redevelopment Agency
Sebring*

Address letters to Editor, *Florida Heritage*, Division of Historical Resources, R.A. Gray Building, 500 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250.

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Mozart
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Feb. 19, 22, 24, 27(m), March 2, 5(m), 11, 13, 19(m), 22, 27(m)

Smetana
THE BARTERED BRIDE
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Verdi
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Artistic Director
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OASES IN THE

Florida's History

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Learn about garden design, horticulture and more as we visit some of the

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than 20,000
plants from
around the
world,
including
more than
6,000 orchids.

THE SUN

Historic Gardens



the most beautiful places this side of heaven here in Florida. By Michael Zimny

*f*rom the biblical Garden of Eden to our smallest backyard collections of lawn, flowerbeds and statuary, the garden has always been a space apart from the outside world, a private place of beauty, reflection and relaxation.

Historically, there are two major traditions of Western garden design—the classical and the romantic. Tracing its origins to the Italian and French Renaissance, the classical garden is based on man's control of nature, its features assuming

an almost architectural quality. The English romantic tradition seeks to improve upon nature in a more naturalistic way, replacing the strict geometric forms of the classical garden by soft, curvilinear features which, although carefully designed and placed, attempt to make the landscape appear as natural as possible. The Oriental tradition of garden design, as can be seen at Morikami Japanese Gardens in Delray Beach, may be highly symbolic in nature, utilizing its features to produce the suggestion of whatever landscape is desired—countryside, coast or forest—or it may be completely abstract in appearance.

Expressions of all traditions of garden design are found in Florida, but greater variety in our gardens can exist because of the state's diversity of climate and vegetation. While a north Florida garden may be planted with azaleas, camellias and dogwoods, its Miami counterpart might be landscaped by more tropical plants, such as hibiscus, orchids and bougainvillea. In central Florida, a garden might even combine varieties of both climatic zones.





Bok Tower and Gardens in Lake Wales feature the designs of Frederick Law Olmstead, Jr., one of America's foremost landscape architects.

Historic gardens of all types are found throughout Florida, many with historic buildings associated with them. For instance, the Eden State Gardens located between Panama City and Destin includes the stately 1897 William Wesley House, in addition to its moss-draped live oak and azalea and camellia gardens. If you can, visit these gardens in the early morning or late afternoon when the sun casts long shadows across their broad lawns. The gardens of the

Brokaw-McDougall House in Tallahassee are similarly landscaped, their majestic live oaks surrounding the 1857 Classical Revival house. If you like color, both of these gardens are best seen in mid-March, the peak blooming time for their azaleas, camellias and dogwoods.

Northeast Florida is home to two distinctive historic gardens—Washington Oaks State Gardens south of Marineland in Flagler County and the Sugar Mill Gardens at Port Orange in Volusia County. Washington Oaks Gardens were originally part of the Belle Vista Plantation acquired in 1818 by General Joseph Hernandez, a Spanish Floridian. The park includes a wide variety of native and exotic plants displayed along footpaths and around reflecting



*Visit these gardens in the
early morning or late
afternoon when the sun
casts long shadows across
their broad lawns.*

The Ringling Gardens in Sarasota contain sculpture depicting Greek and Roman mythology.



The four gardens at Historic Spanish Point in Osprey combine both formal and traditional landscape styles.





Above, the 56-acre Leu Botanical Gardens in downtown Orlando contain spectacular collections of camellias and roses. Below, the 1897 William Wesley House at Eden State Gardens near Destin is surrounded by stately oaks, and spring-blooming azaleas, camellias and dogwoods.

pools. An interpretive center provides information on the natural and cultural history of the area.

The Sugar Mill Gardens contains the ruins of the nineteenth-century Dunlawton sugar mill plantation and a whimsical collection of life-size concrete dinosaurs dating from a late 1940s theme park called Bongoland. A visit to these gardens is like a trip into the past: the ruins of the former sugar cane plantation—coquina block and brick walls, iron boiling kettles and the cane press—stand silently amid wide lawns broken by groups of azaleas, lilies and ferns. Massive live oaks, magnolias, palmetto and sabal palms shelter the garden, giving it a sense of place and time.

In central Florida, the Leu Botanical Gardens in downtown Orlando and the Bok Tower Gardens near Lake Wales are excellent examples of the two schools of Western landscape design. The 56-

acre Leu Gardens were developed between 1936 and 1961 by Harry P. Leu. These spectacular classical gardens display both native and exotic plants, including azaleas, orchids, palms and cycads, aquatic plants, cacti and flowering trees. Of particular note are the garden's collection of 2,000 camellias, one of the world's largest, and the Rose Garden, which includes more than 1,000 specimens in 75 varieties. The gardens are part of the Angeline and David Mizell farm, and their 1888 house has been restored and is open as a house museum.

Standing atop a 300-foot ridge amid the orange groves of Polk County is the Bok Tower and Gardens. The gardens were designed in 1923 by one of America's greatest landscape architects, Frederick Law Olmstead, Jr., under the direction of the sanctuary's founder, Edward Bok. The 130-acre preserve exemplifies the romantic tradition of landscape design, and includes thousands of camellias, gardenias, lilies and other flowering plants set against a lush background of oaks, palms, ferns and pines. The gardens are also home to a variety of wildlife, including squirrels, raccoons, wood ducks, swans and over 100 species of birds. The 200-foot Bok Tower rises majestically above the gardens, the sounds of its 53-bell



*“Who loves a garden, still
his Eden keeps.”*

Amos Bronson Elcott

State marker at the Eden State Gardens, Port Washington



This giant sloth and other concrete dinosaurs left over from the 1940s Bongoland delight visitors to the Sugar Mill Gardens in Volusia County.

carillon drifting serenely through the park and out over the surrounding plain.

Sarasota County boasts three exceptional gardens located within minutes of each other—Historic Spanish Point at Osprey, the Ringling Gardens and the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota. Historic Spanish Point has a 4,000-year history and includes an Indian burial mound, two shell middens and four fully restored gardens developed between 1911 and 1918 by Chicago socialite Mrs. Potter Palmer. Both naturalistic and formal, the gardens include the canopied Jungle Walk and Aqueduct, the cave-like Fern Walk, the Duchene Lawn planted with twin rows of Queen Palms framed by a classical portal and the formal Pergola and Sunken Garden. The 30-acre gardens are home to over 350 species of native plants and exotic varieties such as ginger, banana, date palms and even papaya.

The Ringling Gardens were developed by the brothers John and Charles Ringling of circus fame. Although the John and Mabel Ringling Museum of Art and the elaborate polychrome Ca'd'Zan—the residence of John Ringling—are usually first to catch the visitor's eye, the 63-acre landscaped estate also merits attention. In particular look for Mabel Ringling's "Secret Garden," a private garden located adjacent to the Ca'd'Zan and the formal Rose Garden, recently restored to its 1913 appearance. The Museum's courtyard garden is landscaped in the formal tradition and includes numerous pieces of sculpture depicting tales from Greek and Roman mythology.

From the air, the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens appear as a splash of green on a narrow peninsula jutting out into Sarasota Bay. Acclaimed as "a supernova in the constellation of botanical gardens," the Selby Gardens includes more than 20,000 colorful plants from around the world. The garden's collection of orchids alone numbers over 6,000, and it is the only botanical garden in the world specializing in the collection of epiphytes or air plants. Not to be missed are the tropical display house, the Banyan and palm groves and the Museum of Botany and the Arts.

No tour of Florida's historic gardens would be complete without a visit to the Villa Vizcaya in Miami. Vizcaya was the palatial residence of industrialist James Deering, founder of the International Harvester Company. Columbian-born Diego Suarez designed the estate's ten acres of formal gardens, which are dominated by fan-shaped axial vistas broken by cross parterres and terraces. Facing the gardens from the villa, the eye is carried upward following their central axis to a raised casino pavilion which provides a magnificent view of the gardens and house from the opposite direction. Vizcaya's gardens are at once controlled and surprising, filled with such complexity of design and vegetation that one could easily spend half a day wandering their clipped walks, listening to their splashing fountains and cascades or simply sitting at one of their many benches and taking in this showcase of man, design and nature. They represent the essence of any garden—a delight to the senses and a refuge for the mind. ■



To Learn More

Bok Tower Gardens, 3 miles north of Lake Wales on Alternate U.S. 27, (813) 676-1408.

Brokaw-McDougall House Gardens, 329 North Meridian Street, Tallahassee, (904) 488-3901.

Eden State Gardens, County 395, 1 mile north of U.S. 98, Port Washington, (904) 321-4214.

Historic Spanish Point, 500 North Tamiami Trail, Osprey, (813) 966-5214.

Leu Botanical Gardens, 1730 North Forest Avenue, Orlando, (407) 246-2620.

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, 811 South Palm Avenue, Sarasota, (813) 366-5730.

Morikami Japanese Gardens, 4000 Morikami Park Road, Delray Beach, (407) 495-0233.

Ringling Gardens, 5401 Bay Shore Road, Sarasota, (818) 355-5101.

Sugar Mill Gardens, Old Sugar Mill Road, west of U.S. 1, Port Orange, (904) 767-1735.

Vizcaya Museum and Gardens, 3251 South Miami Avenue, Miami, (305) 579-2767.

Washington Oaks State Gardens, 600 North Oceanside Boulevard, Palm Coast, (904) 445-3161.

CENTER COURT

A LOOK AT OLD FLORIDA COURTHOUSES

These imposing buildings symbolize both the power of local government and the aspirations of the people who built them.

By Gary Goodwin

From our smallest towns to our largest cities, the county courthouse has always made a statement about community pride and served as a monument to the aspirations of the citizens who built it. More than just a government building, the county courthouse also is the place where local people come to marry, uncover their past or just visit and swap stories with neighbors.

Especially in Florida's smaller counties, the courthouse is often the most architecturally distinctive building in the community. Many of Florida's early twentieth century courthouses reflect the influence of the Neoclassical Revival style, an imposing, pretentious architecture of symmetrical facades, columned porches, cupolas and clocktowers. To further strengthen their importance, most courthouses are located at or near the center of town, often as part of a central square.



ROY LETT



(This page
and left)
The Walton
County
Courthouse
in DeFuniak
Springs.



The 1908 Lafayette County Courthouse in Mayo is a fine example of the Neoclassical Revival style of architecture.

tinuously throughout the proceedings. Extremely annoyed, the judge rushed down from the bench and began violently rearranging the furniture. In the melee, a table was thrust into the judge's bench leaving a gaping hole that remains to this day, albeit now covered by the county seal.

The Lafayette County Courthouse was designed by E.C. Hosford of Eastman, Georgia who was also the architect of courthouses in Baker, Hendry, Jefferson and Polk Counties. The 1898 Old Lafayette County Courthouse is located directly across the street from the present courthouse. Its striking resemblance to a steamboat makes it hard to miss. Note in particular its two-story verandahs and pair of red brick chimneys, suggesting their counterparts on a genuine paddlewheel steamer.

The silver-colored cupola and clocktower of the Gadsden County Courthouse in Quincy forms the centerpiece of this historic North Florida community. The cream-colored brick courthouse dates to 1912 and sits on a magnolia-shaded public square. The building displays many of the elements associated with the Neoclassical Revival style, including an Ionic porch and a classical balustrade. While you're visiting the courthouse, take a few moments to wander

around its surrounding square. Walk into the red brick Bell and Bates Hardware Store on the east side of the courthouse; the 1912 building still retains its original wooden floors, shelving and ladders. Padgett's Jewelers on the southeast corner of the square sports a colorful replica of a c.1905 Coca-Cola sign mural, a company which played an important role in the history of Quincy.

Another North Florida courthouse which retains its original function is the 1926 Walton County Courthouse in DeFuniak Springs. This Neoclassical Revival building features a commanding two-story Doric portico derived from classical Greek architecture. Inside, twin staircases, iron balusters and marble benches add to the richness of the building. On the courthouse lawn stands Florida's first monument to the Confederate dead. Erected in 1871, it was moved twice before coming to its present location. If the sun is out, you may check your watch against the courthouse's sundial; its delightful winged hourglass provides us with an all too familiar reminder of the swift passage of time.

Many of Florida's historic courthouses now serve new purposes. For instance, one of Florida's oldest courthouses, the 1890 Clay County Courthouse in Green Cove Springs now houses the Clay County Historical Museum and Department of Public Safety. Because of its early date of construction, the building departs from the Neoclassical Revival style and employs a modified version of the earlier Italianate style. The courthouse served as the seat of county government continuously until 1973 when a new building was completed.

Moving farther south, the 1912 Old Citrus County Courthouse in Inverness now serves as the county's historical museum and archives. This stunning amalgam of the Neoclassical, Italian Re-

The Old Citrus County Courthouse in Inverness now serves as the county's historical museum.



**The Suwannee County
Courthouse in Live Oak**

naissance, Prairie School and Mission styles stands on the site of the original 1892 courthouse which was moved to accommodate the present building. Placed diagonally on the city's historic courthouse square, its original barrel clay tile roof and copper-clad cupola and clocktower rise majestically above the surrounding gently rolling landscape. Located at the intersection of its terrazzo hallways is a distinctive mosaic of the Great Seal of the State of Florida. The mosaic is interesting in that it depicts a male Indian in the seal, unlike the present Great Seal which pictures an Indian maiden scattering flowers.

A short drive south from Inverness is the Old Polk County Courthouse in Bartow. Rising above the surrounding phosphate mines and strawberry fields like some fanciful wedding cake, this domed, three-story Neoclassical Revival style building epitomizes the aspirations of community and government. Constructed in 1908, the courthouse is located on the same site of the county's 1867 and 1884 courthouses. Save for an expansion of matching east and west wings in 1926, the building has remained essentially unchanged. The building's east wing now contains the Polk County Historical and Genealogical Library, one of the largest genealogical and historical collections in the southeastern United States. The west wing of the courthouse will serve as a county museum, although this phase of the building's rehabilitation awaits additional funding.

County courthouses are yours to visit and explore. From Blountstown to St. Augustine; from DeLand to Fort Myers, and from Miami to Key West, these and other Florida towns and cities retain their historic courthouses. Walk up their imposing steps, down their marble corridors and into their courtrooms. There is history in these buildings, in the thousands of birth, marriage and death certificates of their local populace, in the elaborate script of their old deeds and wills and in the transcripts of cases brought before the judge's bench. Others now serving as museums or genealogical libraries will yield different treasures. At very least, you'll walk away with a renewed sense of the pride and stature these buildings once sought to—and still do—command. ■



The Gadsden County Courthouse in Quincy sits on a magnolia-shaded public square.



T.T. Wentworth, Jr. Florida State Museum

PENSACOLA

Once is Not Enough

By Rusty Seigny Ennemoser

Pensacola was the site of the first European attempt to settle Florida, and although that earliest Spanish colony was destroyed by a hurricane in 1561, today Pensacola thrives as a picturesque and enchanting southern city. Pensacola loves its history and it shows, especially in its three central historic districts where careful attention to restoration has resulted in an atmosphere reminiscent of Charleston or New Orleans. Oak-shaded avenues take you past grassy plazas with monuments to the past, homes adorned with gingerbread and wide porches, and commercial buildings fronted with elaborate facades.

Pensacola's deep harbor and desirable coastal location were fought over by Spain,

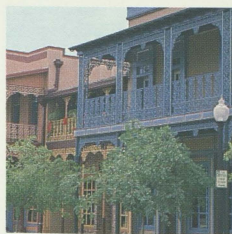
England, France, the Confederacy and the Union. Today, influences of those eras are evident as you drive toward the center of the city on streets originally mapped out by the British and given names by the Spanish like Palafox, Tarragona and Alcaniz. Excavated archaeological sites near downtown display sections of British and Spanish colonial forts. A number of late nineteenth and early twentieth-century structures have been restored and now contain cafes, bookshops, galleries, cultural arts facilities and businesses of all kinds. Brick sidewalks and planters, carriage lamps and grillwork balconies invite you to park and stroll along these pleasant streets.

The Palafox Historic District, a commercial area bustling with activity, reflects a twenty-year construction boom between 1900 and 1920, and contains a number of

buildings still in use, many restored to their former glory. The 1907 Blount Building, reconstructed after a fire, provided iron and

The Julee Cottage in Historic Pensacola Village





steel girders for safety and Beaux Arts ornamentation, terra cotta arches and copper cornices for beauty. The 1902 Theisen Building displays

Beaux Arts architectural details, such as terra cotta scrolled brackets, Corinthian capitals, and sculptured faces surround by elaborate floral motifs. Seville Tower was the tallest commercial building in Florida when it was constructed in 1909. It is considered one of the finest examples of Sullivanesque architecture in the south. The 1925 Saenger Theatre continues its elegant Spanish Baroque architecture and ornamentation inside, where Broadway plays, dance festivals and concerts are performed.

The elaborate Renaissance Revival Escambia County Courthouse sits appropriately on the corner of Government Street. Used as a U.S. Customs House, post office and other government offices since 1887, it was restored in the 1940s and has served as a courthouse since then.

Anchoring the Palafox district is the T.T. Wentworth, Jr. Florida State Museum. Originally constructed in 1907 as Pensacola's City Hall, this Renaissance Revival building contains exhibits featuring the collections of T.T. Wentworth, the largest ever given to the state by an individual. On the third floor is Discovery, a hands-on museum for children, sponsored by the Junior League of Pensacola.

Across the street, the Pensacola Museum of Art is housed in what was once the Pensacola City Jail and City Court. This two-story 1908 Mission Revival building is a center for cultural activities and nightlife, offering art exhibits, classes and a popular restaurant.

Bordering the Palafox Historic District to the east is the Seville Historic District, reflecting the late eighteenth-century maritime industry that was the focus of this seaport community. Scottish, French, Spanish and British settlers built homes along the bayfront and around Seville Square, providing an eclectic mix of Creole, Frame Vernacular and Folk Victorian styles. A number of these homes and buildings have been restored and are used as offices, shops, restaurants and private residences. Facing the square, Old Christ Church, one of the oldest churches

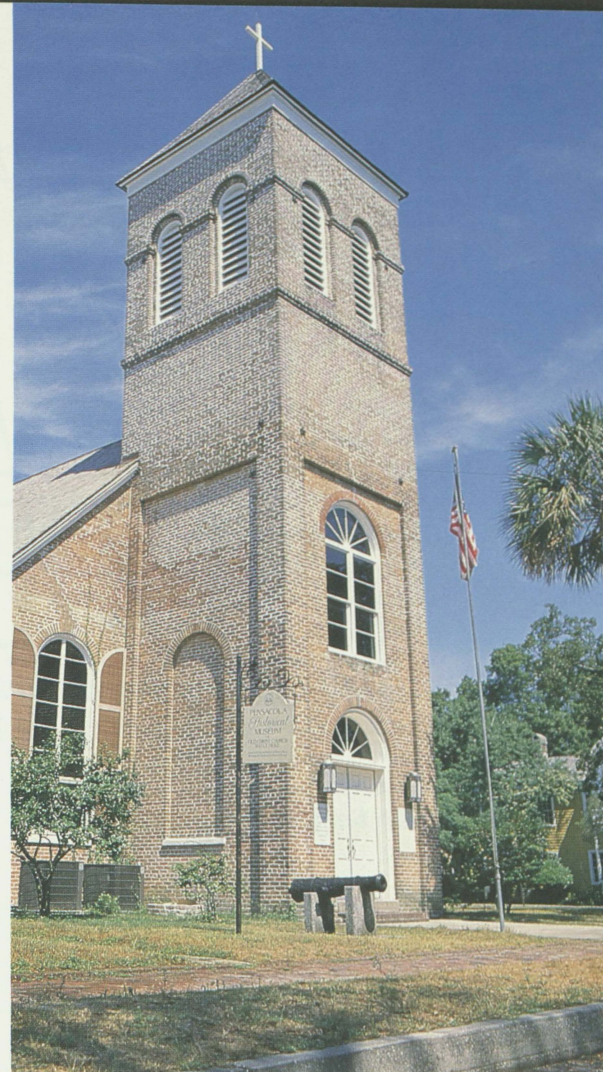
in Florida, is now the home of the Pensacola Historical Museum.

Historic Pensacola Village, located within the Seville District, is a unique museum complex owned and operated by the State of Florida. A visitor information center located in the restored Tivoli House is the place to begin a delightful afternoon stroll down these historic tree-lined lanes. Included in the tour are the Museums of Industry and Commerce, the Julee Cottage Museum of Black History and the Dorr House, Laval House, Lear House, Barkley House and Quina House Museums, all open to the public and offering guided tours. During the summer, reenactors dress in historic costumes and portray the roles of early residents. The Seville District also includes St. Michael's Cemetery, established by the King of Spain in the late eighteenth century. St. Michael's is reminiscent of many New Orleans cemeteries, with its raised tombs and impressive monuments.

On the north end of the Seville District is the 1912 L & N Railroad Depot, which now serves as the main lobby of the fifteen-story Pensacola Hilton. The beautiful depot has been restored and boasts a French clay tile roof, mosaic tile floors, and oak stair rails, door and window moldings.

The North Hill Preservation District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, occupies fifty square blocks and is one of the most intact residential historic districts in Florida. Some 500 homes built between 1870 and the late 1930s reflect a variety of architectural styles, including Queen Anne, Neoclassical, Tudor Revival, Craftsman, Bungalow, Art Moderne and Mediterranean Revival.

These three historic districts in Pensacola can easily fill a weekend visit to the area. If a couple of days is all you have, you'll have to return another time to see all the other historic sites Pensacola offers. Plan to visit



Old Christ Church on Seville Square is one of the oldest churches in Florida.

the historic district at the Naval Air Station, which includes the ruins of the 1839 Fort Barrancas and Fort Redoubt and other buildings dating from the Civil War, and the National Museum of Naval Aviation, which rivals the National Air and Space Museum at the Smithsonian. And you'll need an entire day to see Fort Pickens and the Gulf Islands National Seashore across the bay. Take your time when you visit Pensacola and you'll have a trip the whole family will always remember. ■

To Learn More

Join the Florida Trust for a special weekend in Pensacola November 5-7. The visit to Pensacola will include guided tours of the Seville Historic District, Historic Pensacola Village and the North Hill Preservation District. In addition to a reception and lunch in historic buildings in the Seville District, a special candlelight progressive dinner in the nearby towns of Milton and Bagdad will cap off the weekend. Enjoy shopping in Pensacola's art and antique shops and browsing at the wonderful Great Gulf Coast Art Festival which is scheduled in the Seville Historic District during the tour weekend. For complete details, call the Trust at (904) 224-8128.

For more information about Pensacola, call or write the Pensacola Visitors Information Center, 1401 East Gregory Street, Pensacola, FL 32501, (800) 343-4321; or the T.T. Wentworth, Jr. Florida State Museum and Historic Pensacola Village, 120 E. Church Street, Pensacola, FL 32501, (904) 444-8905.

*Standing Ovation
for the*

SARASOTA OPERA HOUSE

Entertaining audiences with top-notch opera and other performances, the Sarasota Opera House is one of the most successful renovations of a historic building in Florida.

By Michael Zimny

Going to the opera has always been a special occasion. Dressing for the evening, dinner beforehand, settling in your plush seat for the performance itself, sharing a glass of wine and conversation during intermission and dessert afterwards are all part of ex-

periencing one of the great art forms of Western culture. Where in Florida does one go to be so entertained, especially in an historic theater?

There is such a place in downtown Sarasota standing amidst an attractive collection of cafes, shops and art galleries—the Sarasota Opera House. Formerly the Edwards Theater, this bright, peach-colored building

has for the past fourteen years been home to one of the most financially successful and critically acclaimed regional opera companies in the United States. Now in its tenth year of producing grand opera, the Sarasota Opera Association has seen its budget grow from a modest \$385,000 to over \$2 million and its work attract national and international attention. In the process, it has not only made opera pay but has given the community an institution as well as an art form to be enjoyed by all.

The story of the Sarasota Opera House began in 1926 with its construction as the Edwards Theater. Named for its owner and first mayor of Sarasota, Arthur Britton Edwards, the \$250,000 theater was designed by noted Tampa and Jacksonville architect Roy E. Benjamin in the popular Mediterranean Revival style. Mediterranean Revival architecture enjoyed unrivaled popularity in Florida during the 1920s, and the Edwards Theater—with its stucco walls, barrel tile roof, arched openings and a third story beamed loggia—was no exception. Like many theaters of its day, the Edwards was designed





to accommodate a wide variety of entertainment, including theatrical performances, silent film and vaudeville acts. Following its opening on April 10, 1926, the *Sarasota Herald Tribune* praised the Edwards for "... having admitted Sarasota into a fairyland of costly decoration, rich furnishings and never to be forgotten artistry."

That fairyland was not to last. Driven by the needs of a changing audience and industry, motion pictures alone soon became the mainstay of the theater's entertainment. In 1936, the theater lost its magical Rogers Morton orchestral organ as result of damage from a hurricane. Later attempts to "modernize" the theater resulted in the loss of yet more of its original fabric. Finally, neglected and abused, the theater closed its doors in 1973.

At about the same time, the Asolo Opera Guild, predecessor of the Sarasota Opera Association, was looking for a home. Organized in 1960, the Guild began to produce its own operas in 1974. In 1979, the Guild renamed itself the Sarasota Opera Association and purchased the Edwards Theater for \$50,000. Efforts to restore and expand the theater to meet the needs of a new art form were quickly begun. The funds raised to renovate the theater demonstrate this community's commitment to the arts: nearly 78 percent of the \$6 million raised to date has been secured through individual contributions and other private sources; the remainder was provided through grant assistance from the Department of State's Divisions of Historical Resources and Cultural Affairs. On February 6, 1993, the fully renovated opera house opened with a gala performance of Verdi's *Il Trovatore*.

Producing grand opera is one thing; paying for it is quite another. It is here that the Sarasota Opera has truly excelled. Of the countless artists, performers and staff that

have catapulted the company to the position which it now enjoys, one individual stands out: Deane Carroll Allyn. Executive Director of the Association since 1985, Allyn came to Sarasota from Chicago in 1976 intending to retire. But her training in voice at the Peabody Conservatory of Music and experience in marketing and public relations soon brought her to the theater. Now she presides over an organization that produces four operas per season and operates in the black. How does she make it work?

When asked that question, Allyn's first response is the theater itself. The Sarasota Opera is one of a small number of opera companies in the United States fortunate to own its own house. This allows the company flexibility in production, scheduling and length of season. The Edwards is also a small, intimate theater with excellent acoustics, one which Allyn describes as "a dream house for young voices." Also, the company uses a rotating repertoire to keep costs down. Using this arrangement, the complete sets for the entire season's operas are stored backstage, saving the expense of bringing in sets on an individual basis. The choice of repertoire itself is also important. Victor DeRenzi, artistic director, says that offering two familiar works in combination with two lesser-known operas in a season is popular with the patrons. All operas are sung in their native language but with English surtitles projected above the stage to help the audience follow the story. This, combined with the quality of production, generates ticket

sales of \$1 million annually, or nearly fifty percent of the Association's budget. By comparison, most opera companies average thirty percent in box office receipts. Finally, the Sarasota Opera has a tremendous outreach program, bringing opera to the community through some ninety activities outside of the house each year.

In spite of its financial and critical success, Allyn remains faithful to the artistic purpose of the Association. "There is always so much more to accomplish," she says, "an opportunity to keep an art form alive and give the community a facility of this quality, not only for the production of opera but other performances as well." These performances, which include everything from classical ballet to country music, not only allow the theater to remain in continuous operation but also help the Association make a profit. Grand opera is alive and well in Sarasota in this beautifully restored theater; your seat is waiting. ■

To Learn More

The Sarasota Opera will present four operas in its 1994 season: *Madame Butterfly* by Giacomo Puccini, *The Marriage of Figaro* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, *The Bartered Bride* by Bedrich Smetana, and *The Sicilian Vespers* by Giuseppe Verdi. The season runs from February 12 to March 27. For ticket information call (813) 953-7030.

The set for the 1992 production of *Simon Boccanegra*



CAPTURING FERNANDINA'S PAST

The resurrected old Nassau County Jail now serves as the Amelia Island Museum of History, a focus for an old seaport's legacy.

By Phillip M. Pollock

Amelia Island is a popular vacation spot for many Floridians, with its beautiful beaches, intriguing antique shops and excellent seafood restaurants. And for tourists seeking a break from all the sun and sand, the Amelia Island Museum of History in the quiet seaport village of Fernandina offers time to browse through historical exhibits and the opportunity to tour century-old homes, churches and cemeteries.

Housed in the old Nassau County Jail with parts of the structure dating to 1871, this small building, once abandoned and broken-down, has been resurrected through the vision and efforts of its executive director, Deon Jaccard. She recognized the growth of tourism in this region, along with a corresponding need for a museum.

Jaccard, one of her staff, or one of more than 100 volunteers greet visitors at the museum's old barred entrance. Tours are provided by guides who are pleasant and full of local insight.



PHILLIP M. POLLOCK



A visit to the Amelia Island Museum of History might be planned after a morning filled with shopping and brunch on the waterfront. No reservations are required for the two daily tours at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. A leisurely museum tour will transport you and your party back to a time when that same waterfront bustled with activities quite different from those of today. By now, business owners in downtown are so familiar with the museum schedule that they often brief their customers on what to expect when they enter the museum.

Inside the museum you'll see displays relating to the history of Fernandina, including the Dorion Dig Room with Native American and mission era artifacts, and the Galleon Room with its maritime archaeology exhibit. A reference room provides the opportunity to browse through maps and old prints, and look up information about the region's history. Here, if you are an architectural history buff, you can learn more about the older residential parts of town. Nine exact scale models of existing buildings in the community can be

taken apart to illustrate original architectural styles obscured by later additions and alterations.

If you're interested in seeing more of the Fernandina area, the museum offers several guided walking/driving tours that are available with 24 hours notice.



The North Fernandina Beach tour begins at the 1859 Classical Revival First Presbyterian Church and continues down a block lined with Victorian homes that have been owned by the same families since they were first built. Then the Moorish Revival St. Michael's Catholic Church comes into view, followed quickly by the clay tile roof of the Villa Las Palmas. As the tour approaches the docks, smells and sounds of the harbor become pronounced, and visitors can watch workers demonstrate their net-making skills that for three generations have served a worldwide shrimping and fishing industry.

The South Fernandina Beach tour, similarly, winds its way through old residential areas where visitors are led through several nineteenth and twentieth-century homes. Certainly the most distinguishing visual aspect of this tour, however, is a visit to St. Peters Episcopal Church with its breathtaking stained glass windows (see page 20, summer issue of *Florida Heritage*).

In 1990, the Amelia Island Museum of History received the Florida Trust's "Florida Preservation Merit Award for Organizational Achievement" for adaptive use of the Old Nassau County Jail. What was once a simple brick jail for a small community's miscreants is now protecting that same community's history. So if your desire for relaxation brings you to Fernandina, the folks at the museum invite you visit them and take home some visions of the past along with your tan! ■

To Learn More

In December, the museum's tour of homes will take a turn down a different historical avenue when the city's twelve bed and breakfast inns will be featured. The conversion of old, spacious homes into inns is becoming more and more common as the community experiences growth. The tours will show how different entrepreneurs meet the challenge of keeping a home's integrity while adapting it to commercial purposes.

The city of Fernandina Beach is located at the northern end of the narrow barrier island of Amelia, twenty minutes north of Jacksonville on I-95, then east on A1A.

The Amelia Island Museum of History is located at 233 South Third Street, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034, (904) 261-7378.

For other Amelia Island tourist information, call (800) 2AMELIA, which is the Chamber of Commerce's hotline for island activity. It is located at 102 Center Street, the Old Depot Building, in Fernandina Beach.

THE MAPLE LEAF

By Keith V. Holland, Lee B. Manley and James W. Toward, Editors; *Jacksonville: St. Johns Archaeological Expeditions, Inc., 1993, 205 pages.*

A critic could fault the somewhat disjointed organization, occasional repetition and uneven coverage of topics in this book and chalk them up to editing by committee. But the editorial committee, consisting of a

dentist, a commercial diver and a retired engineer, have put together an interesting, informative and instructive volume about sunken historical treasure and underwater salvage.

The first part of the book deals with the

life and death of the *Maple Leaf*, a sidewheel steamer sunk by a Confederate mine in the St. Johns River while transporting the camp equipment of Union troops during the Civil War. Several brief chapters discuss the career of the *Maple Leaf* as a military transport along the southern coast and in the St. Johns River, and describe the artifactual motherlode that resides within her sunken hull. The last chapter in Part I is a detailed account of the vessel's origins and history as a commercial steamer on Lake Ontario in the 1850s and takes the book beyond the Civil War and Florida history contexts into the broader areas of American, maritime and economic history.

Part II describes the effort to locate the wreck and initiate a systematic, long range program to salvage the tangible history that it contains. Included are unusually clear and concise commentaries on the social, legal and environmental ramifications of archaeological salvage and the care and study of the artifacts recovered. The meticulous planning and preparation and the cooperative effort of the private sponsors and public authorities involved emerge as crucial factors in the success of the project thus far and bode well for the future of what will undoubtedly be a very long term program.

This book is not a "definitive work." But it will satisfy the curiosity of the general reader and appeal particularly to anyone interested in the Civil War, maritime history or underwater archaeology. It may stimu-

late public support for continuation of the *Maple Leaf* project. But its greatest value and most significant impact may be in the guidance it can provide to others considering the organization and conduct of similar archaeological investigations.

Reviewed by William N. Thurston, Supervisor, Survey and Registration Section, Bureau of Historic Preservation.

LIGHTHOUSES OF THE FLORIDA KEYS by Love Dean; *Southern Press of Miami, Inc.; (Published by the Historic Florida Keys Foundation, Inc. Key West, Florida.); 1992, 197 pages.*

Lighthouses of the Florida Keys is a revised and expanded version of Love Dean's *Reef Lights* published in 1982. The new release adds six lighthouses to the original group of six featured in the first book.

It provides a well-documented, historical accounting of why and where each lighthouse was constructed, type of architecture, who built it, how well it was constructed and the cost. One can see a progression of technological advances as the lights were constructed through the decades of the nineteenth century.

Dean reports the lives of the keepers, their families, relationships with nearby communities, wreckers, as well as Native American and Civil War era invaders. She also describes how hurricanes and lesser storms caused considerable damage, personal hardship and loss of life. Moreover, Dean gives a

good sense of what living in Florida was like during this period. If you want to discover whether or not Carysfort Reef Lighthouse is indeed haunted by the ghost of old Captain Johnson, or what it was like to ride out a hurricane read *Lighthouses of the Florida Keys*.

I must confess a certain bias. As a member of the U.S. Coast Guard in the mid to late 1960s, serving on the Fowey Rocks Lighthouse for a time, I often assisted in the maintenance and servicing of some of the lights described. Learning the history of those lighthouses and of those who served

before me left me with an unequaled sense of personal accomplishment.

Reviewed by John Girvin, Assistant Director of the Division of Historical Resources, Florida Department of State.

FLORIDA: A SHORT HISTORY

by Michael Gannon; *Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 151 pp., \$24.95 hardcover.*

In this very evenly paced history, Professor Gannon takes the reader from the "Beginning," 12,000 years ago, up to last year's Hurricane Andrew. It is a short history, but with an enormous amount of information, all easily picked up.

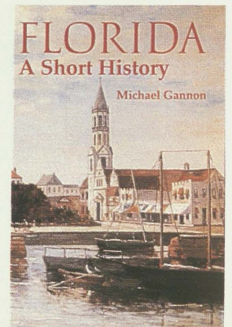
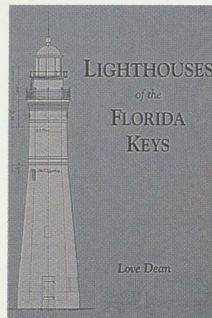
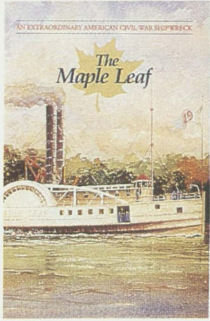
If you missed studying Florida history in the fourth grade, as I did, this book provides a wonderful substitute (with apologies to all fourth grade teachers). If you were lucky enough to be in Florida when you were in the 4th grade, you'll find that, if nothing else, you're reading this for the enjoyment of its language.

As Professor Gannon points out in his introduction, it may come as a surprise to many of us, but Florida has the longest recorded history of any of the American states. While American history has generally always started off with the Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock in 1620, St. Augustine was already 55 years old and, "ready for urban renewal," he says.

The book is full of information: governors, politics, economics, culture, the "booms" and "busts", the who's and the why's of where we Floridians are today. But that's only part of the pleasure of reading this. The real fun is the readability, the humor and the sense of pride with which it has been written. With all due apologies for some of our past mistakes, there emerges a genuine love of Florida.

For the newcomer or old timer, *A Short History* is a pleasant summer afternoon's read, filled with fascinating lore and tales about the oldest settlement in these United States.

Reviewed by Walt Marder, Preservation Architect, Florida Bureau of Historic Preservation, who regrets that he wasn't in Florida in the fourth grade.



October-January 1993-1994

Through October 31 Pensacola

"Major League, Minor League: America's Baseball Stadiums." Photography exhibit at the T.T. Wentworth, Jr. State Museum. (904) 444-8905.

October 6-8 Fort Lauderdale

Florida Association of Museums, Inc. and Museum Store Association, Florida Region, annual meeting. Fort Lauderdale Marina Marriott. (904) 222-6028.

October 9 Brooksville

Fall festival. Demonstration of rug weaving, tatting, pine needle handicrafts at the Heritage Museum. (904) 799-0129.

October 9-10 Cocoa

Seminole Indian & Florida Pioneer Festival at Brevard Community College. Indian and Florida craft fair. (407) 632-1111, ext. 3720.

October 10 Miami

Discovery of America Day at Bayfront Park. Reenactment of Columbus' landing, folklore groups, fire works. (305) 541-5023.

October 15-17 Tampa

Mailou Art Fest at the Museum of African American Art. Artists' market, international beer and food. (813) 272-2466.

October 22-November 13 Miami

"A Pictorial Meeting Between the Old and the New World." The Florida Museum of Hispanic and Latin American Art. (305) 576-5171.

October 22-November 14 Tallahassee

12th Annual Quilt Show at the Museum of Florida History. (904) 877-1845.

"Discover the Past" Historic Spanish Point



October 23 McIntosh

1890s Festival. Grand parade, live music, tours of historic homes, churches, railroad depot, arts and crafts. (904) 591-4038.

October 23-24 Fernandina Beach

Confederate Garrison Weekend at Fort Clinch State Park. (904) 277-7274.

October 24 Miami

Festival of the Americas at Tropical Park. Hispanic entertainers, food, arts and crafts. (305) 541-5023.

November 5-6 St. Augustine

Lincolnville Festival. (904) 829-8379.

November 5-7 West Palm Beach

Fiesta on Flagler. Hispanic heritage festival, entertainment, arts and crafts. (407) 582-6515.

November 6 Titusville

Main Street Harvest Festival of Arts and Crafts. (407) 269-7947 or (407) 269-3330.

November 6 Sebring

6th annual Civilian Conservation Corps Festival at Highlands Hammock State Park. (813) 385-0011.

November 6-7 Micanopy

Micanopy Country Festival. Antiques, crafts, entertainment, food, tour of the Herlong Mansion, children's activities. (904) 466-4789.

November 12-14 Estero

Koreshan State Historic Site becomes a Victorian holiday village. (813) 992-0311.

November 13-14 Delray Beach

Annual Harvest Festival at East Atlantic Avenue. (407) 278-0424.

November 20-21 Sarasota

"Discover the Past" at Historic Spanish Point on Little Sarasota Bay. Blacksmithing, basket weav-



Victorian Ball DeFuniak Springs

ing, soap making, crafts, music, turn-of-the-century games and storytelling. (813) 966-5214.

November 20-21

Eustis

International Folk Festival at the Eustis Community Center. International music, food, workshops, carvers, basket weavers. (904) 483-2171.

November 20-21

Miami

Harvest Festival at the Dade County Youth Fair Grounds. Crafts, folklife demonstrations, historic reenactments, quilts. (305) 375-1492.

November 25-January 9 St. Augustine

Victorian Christmas at the Lightner Museum. Traditional open house on Christmas Eve. (904) 824-2874.

December 4-5

DeLand

Candlelight tour of historic homes. (904) 738-4422.

December 4

DeFuniak Springs

Victorian Ball at the Chautauqua Building. Period costumes required. Horse and carriage rides, tour of homes. (904) 892-4300.

December 4

Tallahassee

A Bid for History: A Holiday Auction at the Museum of Florida History. (904) 488-1484.

December 4

Tallahassee

December on the Farm at the Tallahassee Museum of History and Natural Science. (904) 575-8684.

December 5

St. Augustine

British Grande Illumination Celebration. Eighteenth century military encampments and drills, traditional music, torchlight parade. (904) 829-5681.

December 9-February 27 Coral Gables

The Lights of Tiffany: Highlights of the Egon and Hildegard Neustadt Collection. Lowe Art Museum. (305) 284-3535.

December 9-11 Tallahassee

Desoto Christmas Commemoration. Observance of the first Christmas celebrated by Europeans in 1539 in what is now the United States. (904) 922-6007.

December 11-12 Sanford

Santa Lucia Festival on historic waterfront. Santa Lucia arrives by Viking boat. Lighted boat parade, Dec. 11. (407) 323-9178.

December 14 Homosassa

Christmas celebration of lights includes boat parade, holiday music, food at Homosassa Springs State Wildlife Park. (813) 628-5343.

December 15 Tallahassee

Reeves Native American Exhibit opens at the Museum of Florida History. (904) 488-1484.

December 17-March 13 Miami

Photochroms of Florida, Cuba and the Bahamas. Exhibit of recently acquired collection of 78 color lithographs made at the turn of the century. Historical Museum of Southern Florida. (305) 375-1492.

December 29-January 2

Tamiami Trail

Miccosukee Annual Indian Arts Festival. (305) 223-8380.

December 29

Delray Beach

Oshogatsu — Japanese New Year Celebration at the Morikami Museum and Park. (407) 495-0233.

December 31-January 3

White Springs

Florida Frolic at the Steven Foster State Folk Culture Center. Four days of folk dancing and traditional music. (904) 397-2192.

January 24-30

Eatonville

Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts and Humanities. (407) 647-3307.

Please call the number listed to verify dates. There may be an admission charge for some events. Listings for the calendar section should be mailed at least four months in advance to Florida Heritage Magazine, 500 S. Bronough Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250, or faxed to (904) 922-0496.



WHERE SWING IS STILL KING

Story by Phillip M. Pollock • Photograph by Dan Stanfield

A large multi-faceted mirrored ball, suspended from a central wooden arch, casts speckled “starlight” across a polished, red oak dance floor. Couples glide over its surface while a three-piece orchestra mixes waltz, swing and rumba music in the huge dance hall. It’s another Wednesday afternoon, and at St. Petersburg’s Coliseum, that means a Tea Dance.

Ballroom dancing has reigned supreme at the Coliseum ever since the doors first opened in 1924. From those early years, music has set the mood in the 15,000-square-foot Coliseum hall. Couples swayed to rhythms during the twenties and thirties when Vaughn Monroe, Cab Calloway, Duke Ellington and the Dorsey Brothers filled it with the sounds of swing. It was a retreat for lovers in the forties and fifties when Dick Crockett and his “Sounds of Music” orchestra topped the billing. On those evenings, if only for a few hours, Crockett’s orchestra would transport couples miles from the European and Asian war zones. Beginning in 1964, co-owner Rex McDonald and “The Silver Kings” played a record fifteen-year engagement at the Coliseum. Since 1979, bands like “Sounds of Music” and “The New Yorkers 18” continue to flood the

hall with the music made famous by Artie Shaw and Glenn Miller.

The city of St. Petersburg has recently completed a three-year renovation of what locals now call the “new” Coliseum. Palm trees frame the glistening white stucco exterior of the building in keeping with its Mediterranean architecture, while cool breezes off nearby Mirror Lake whisk couples into the hall. Once there, soft colored lights along curved ceiling arches create the atmosphere for dancing. Partners bring their own refreshments (though a set-up bar is available) and claim tables tucked in amber-lit alcoves. The music swells across the floor from the elevated stage, and couples seem to do naturally what they have done for years at the Coliseum—they dance! ■

To encourage wider audiences, Coliseum officials have recently scheduled a Reggae Festival, 1950s Sock Hops, and Country Nights (every Thursday night), as well as the afternoon, evening and special ballroom events. And, if you can’t visit St. Petersburg any time soon, secure a copy of the movie Cocomoon, and look for the ballroom scene. Upcoming ballroom events at the Coliseum include Guy Lombardo’s Royal Canadians on December 17, Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra on February 9, Vaughn Monroe Orchestra scheduled for February 19, and the Myron Floren Orchestra on February 26. Call (813) 892-5202 to confirm dates and for information about other special engagements and rentals.

ST. AUGUSTINE: The Gonzales-Alvarez ("Oldest") House; St. Augustine Historical Society, 271 Charlotte Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084. Portrays with authentic decor the life styles of its owners through three centuries and three cultures - Spanish, British and Territorial American. *Open daily (904) 824-2872. Groups welcome.*

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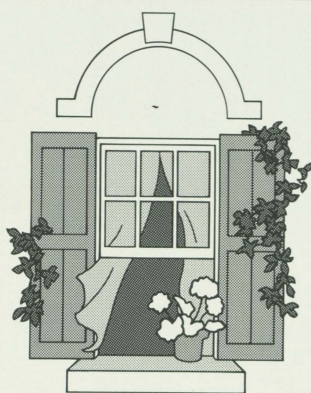
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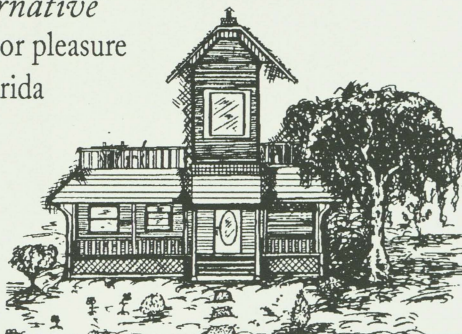
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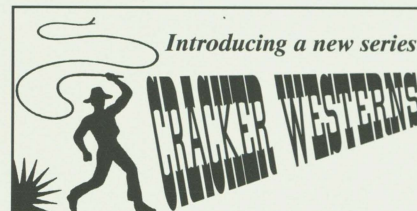
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